

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, LU

SUBJ: DIALOGUE WITH EC PRESIDENCY--JANUARY 19-20 POLITICAL

DIRECTORS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG--ANGOLA

REF: STATE 011908 (NOTAL)

1. GOL OFFICIAL GAVE CHARGE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON POLITICAL
DIRECTORS DISCUSSION ON ANGOLA.

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2. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS CONSIDERED RECENT ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS IN LIGHT OF CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION AND OAU FAILURE TO DEVELOP UNITED STAND. THEY DISCUSSED THE ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT THAT SUCCESS OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA COULD HAVE THROUGHOUT AFRICA. WHILE ALL PARTICIPANTS SHARED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT IMMEDIATE WESTERN INTERESTS IN AFRICA SHOULD ANGOLA COME UNDER MPLA CONTROL, THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT ABOUT HOW SERIOUS OR LASTING THOSE EFFECTS WOULD BE OVER TIME. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS DECIDED THEY WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS THE IMPACT ANGOLA COULD HAVE ON DETENTE AFTER HEARING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NAC BRIEFING IN BRUSSELS ON JANUARY 23. UNTIL THEY HAVE HEARD SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VIEWS, THEY FEEL THEY SHOULD NOT TAKE FORMAL ACTION TO INITIATE JOINT OR BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANGOLA AND DETENTE. BILATERALLY, HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF THE MEMBER STATES HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN TO THE SOVIETS.

3. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS DID AGREE THAT THE MEMBER STATES BEST-PLACED TO DO SO COULD MAKE LOW-KEY APPROACHES IN THE 23 AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT LINED UP AGAINST MPLA RECOGNITION AT OAU AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAND THEIR GROUND. WITH THE GROUP OF 23, THEY WILL PRESS FOR A NEGOTIATED AFRICAN SOLUTION IN ANGOLA. THEY WILL ALSO TRY THROUGH INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL DEMARCHES TO DISCOURAGE PORTUGAL FROM RECOGNIZING THE MPLA LEST IT GIVE IT AN AURA OF LEGITIMACY. NONE OF THE NINE WILL RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE ANGOLAN INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS AS LONG AS THE CURRENT CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA CONTINUES. FINALLY, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS URGED THE EC COMMISSION TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND GENEROUS IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THE ANGOLAN WAR, I.E. ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. PHILLIPS

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